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Docking the ESSO Bridgeport

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Esso Teminal, Webber Oil Company, Docking the Esso Bridgeport

Date: November 19, 1949

Recording number: D.16.22; CD 4, track 14

Length of recording: 3:26

[transcript begins]

IRV HUNTER: I see this, uh, tanker Esso Bridgeport, is that coming from Texas?

SECOND VOICE: Yes. It is coming up from Texas, I believe. Right straight up from Gulf Port.

HUNTER: Well, thank you very much, and that's all from this point at this time.

[brief pause, and then engine noise begins]

HUNTER: We're speaking to you now from the forward deck of the tow boat Walter Ross as we come alongside the tanker Esso Bridgeport. The tow boat is getting ready to assist the tanker up the Penobscot River to the dock at Bucksport. Right now we're just below the Waldo-Hancock Bridge, a very beautiful sight there ahead of us. And two boats have come alongside, a rope has been thrown over, the men are working now getting things all in readiness for the finale of their trip up the Penobscot River and to the dock at Bucksport. Now we get a chance to look back and, uh, some gentlemen are just gone aboard. The pilot has been put aboard that we told you about a little earlier. Captain Merle Abbot, he has just gone aboard to assist in the docking of this tremendously large tanker. Estimates of the length have been made and we figure she's about 600 feet long, and that brings up another point. The cargo that she carries is about five and a half to six million gallons of oil. Now that's considerable oil, and will give you some idea of the ship. Six hundred feet long and it draws somewhere in the vicinity of thirty feet of water. We can see the thirty-one foot water mark as we came alongside the Esso Bridgeport just a few moments ago. As you watch the boat come up, a very majestic sight coming up the river, we quite often think of a tanker as a work boat and not very glamorous looking but this type of tanker, a T 2 tanker, is pretty much a big vessel and more glamorous than the ordinary tanker you see on the river here. This one is black, the lower section, the hull, and the upper part is all white. A tremendously large bridge that of course is all white, two big masts on her, and from one of the masts we see the familiar Esso sign up there, the blue oval with the red letters E S S O. And right now I'm traveling down the length of the Walter Ross, the boat where we're broadcasting from and I'm going to get down at the stern. We were broadcasting from the bow but now as I go to the stern I can get a better look at the Esso Bridgeport. Right now I'm at the stern of the Walter Ross and that is just a little bit ahead of

the bridge of the Esso Bridgeport. That will give you an idea of the comparative sizes of these two boats. A tug, as you get aboard it, is a much bigger boat than you might think by seeing it from land but beside this huge T 2 tanker, it is a small boat by comparison.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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